First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ23ryYK8ac

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

March 20, 2016 10:00 am

Palm Sunday

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"In The Bulb There Is A Flower"** **433 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Wayne Burling

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Wayne Burling

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Anthem** **"Order My Steps"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Wayne Burling

One: Morning after morning, God grants us a new day.
Wake up each day to the joys and challenges life presents.
Many: This is the day that God has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
One: God equips us to face whatever the day may hold;
Watch and listen as God offers to teach us.
Many: We gather seeking blessing in the name of God!
We come, thanking God for the gift of salvation.
One: See the sunlight ahead in your life
Enter God's marvelously built days.
Many: God's steadfast love endures forever!
Blessed is the one who comes in God's name! Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

***Hymn** **"Mantos y Ramos"** **214 NCH**

LISTENING FOR GOD

First Gospel Reading **Luke 19:28-40** Wayne Burling

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **Luke 23:1-25** Carol Hall

Sermon **"Surprise Bag!"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Ride On! Ride On in Majesty"** **215 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version

Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think that I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always,
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen."

Brother Thomas Merton, OCSO

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Responsive)

Carol Hall

God of peace and glory, who sent Jesus to teach and inspire the multitudes and call us all to discipleship, help us to celebrate the triumph of humility and the satisfaction of servanthood. We rejoice that Christ shared our humanity and lifted the self-esteem of the lowly. May all the world receive Christ's spirit and give thanks for your steadfast love. Amen. – **Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Offertory

Steve McGhee

*Doxology

"Take My Gifts" **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Wayne Burling

Grateful for your grace that is new every morning and thankful that you love is forever plentiful, we bring our gifts to your attention and dedicate them to the work of your Son, Jesus Christ. May all Christians who are gathered to worship today, scatter to serve once they have been nourished by your Word. May the needs of all of your children be attended to by those who were taught by the Prophets, the Disciples, Your Son and so many others who have taught Sunday School, led services, helped those in need in the city. Help us to consider all who have shown us the way to you, Lord. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Clap Your Hands"** **49 SING**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

Open and Affirming Covenant of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Mar 20th	Next Sunday: Mar 27th
Usher	Marty Kleino	Wayne Burling
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Wayne Burling	Tad Wysor
Worship Set-up	Donna Eyster	Margaret Harner
Acolyte	Marty Kleino	Lyle Molter
Friendship Time	Patty Sherwood	Easter Breakfast
Sunday School	Tad Wysor	Alex Goldsmith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS: Flowers will be used for Service on Easter, or you may pick up Fri. or Sat for delivery to others you may sell to. Plants that are here on Sunday should be picked up after worship. **Please order by today March 20th .** Questions; contact Wayne Burling, 734-377-0696, wburling@gmail.com

EASTER BREAKFAST: Easter Breakfast will be Sunday March 27th before service at 8:30 am. Any questions contact Ivan Harner.

CHOIR: Choir will meet at 6:30 pm this Tuesday March 22th instead of 6:00 pm.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held tomorrow April 7, 2016 at 4:45 pm. All are welcome.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; Orchard Hills Manor, 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is the same as always (734) 483-3849.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address': Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*
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OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

MENTOR 2 YOUTH: Mentor2Youth is a non-profit organization that provides educational services and programs to at-risk youth ages 8-18 in Washtenaw County. Since its inception in 2011, Mentor2Youth has served more than 450 youth by taking a holistic approach towards their well-being. Our mission is to ensure these youth have a promising future through educating and empowering them to excel in life, academics and work. We envision developing a school-to-career pipeline for at-risk youth as our organization continues to become more sustainable and expands over the next five years.
Contact Alex Goldsmith (alexandriansnowden@gmail.com) or visit their website (http://www.mentor2youth.com) for more information.

Today's Cover:

The Palm Sunday Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ23ryYK8ac Frame: 0:08